

ITEM 14.1

Memo To: Tom Blanchard, Chairman
ISHS Board of Trustees
From: Suzi Pengilly, Chair, Idaho Geographic Names Advisory Council
Re: Geographic Names Proposals
Date: December 26, 2007

Recommended Action: Approve the last two proposals for name changes from the Coeur d'Alene Tribe (listed below). These proposals involve removing the word Squaw from the names of geographic features in Clearwater County with replacement Coeur d'Alene language names. The Idaho Geographic Names Advisory Council (IGNAC) voted unanimously at its Oct 12th meeting to approve the name changes.

Coeur d'Alene Tribes Proposed Name Changes
Squaw/Seastem Creek (Clearwater County—State of Idaho)
Squaw/Teakweh Creek (Clearwater County—Clearwater N.F.)

Background: At the April 2006 meeting of the Idaho Geographic Names Board (Idaho Board), the Idaho Board recognized the word Squaw as derogatory in its application to geographic features in Idaho. Tribes are now submitting, or expressing interest in submitting, proposals to change geographic names that currently have squaw in the name.

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe recently submitted seven proposals for consideration by IGNAC. In July, five of the seven were presented to the Idaho Board who approved the name changes by a vote of four to two. The last two proposals, located in Clearwater County, were held by IGNAC until consultation with the Nez Perce Tribe was completed. After receiving some feed back from the Nez Perce, IGNAC voted to approve the last two proposals on Oct. 12th:

Clearwater County

1. Squaw/Seastem Creek (Clearwater County—State of Idaho)

This Squaw Creek is located in Clearwater County on the Elk River quad, on land managed by Idaho Department of Lands. The replacement name Seastem is a Coeur d'Alene term used by a man to refer to his sister-in-law. The Dept of Lands area office is not opposed to the name change. Clearwater County is not opposed to changing the name, but is not fond of the proposed names.

Pengilly has talked to Vera Sonneck, director of the Nez Perce Tribe's Cultural Resource Program. Sonneck had requested a map showing the locations of these two Clearwater County geographic features. Frank Roberts, Coeur d'Alene Tribe GIS coordinator, provided a map. Sonneck explained to Pengilly that she was still unclear about the location of these features but believed that they were quite far north, near the boundary between traditional Coeur d'Alene and Nez Perce territories.

Walker moved to recommend acceptance of the change from Squaw to Seastem Creek. Kassens seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Squaw/Teakweh Creek (Clearwater County—Clearwater N.F.)

This feature is located in Clearwater County north of the Lolo Trail, on the Pot Mountain Quad, and on land managed by the Clearwater National Forest. Teakweh is a Coeur d'Alene term used for one's father's sister (aunt on your father's side). Clearwater County is not opposed to changing the name, but is not fond of the proposed names. Pengilly sent them the application to submit new names to the BGN, but they did not have a chance to submit new application.

The Clearwater Forest has not provided an opinion as they were waiting to hear from the Nez Perce Tribe.

Pengilly's discussions with the Nez Perce Tribe apply to this proposal as well.

Roy Forsstrom moved to recommend acceptance of the from Squaw to Teakweh Creek. Steve Holbrook seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Impact: None.

Review by Others: IGNAC has already considered these matters. The Idaho Board's recommendations will then go to the U.S. Board for reference in their deliberations.

Presenter: Suzi Pengilly, Chair, IGNAC